

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy Community

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Vacancy Announcements

Martin Hudson -- CENWP

Supervisory Economist GS-0110- 13: The Portland District has initiated recruitment for a supervisory economist. The person selected will become a Section Chief and provide leadership to a team of economists. Portland District is a civil works district and has a diverse program that includes navigation (deep draft and inland), flood control, environmental restoration, hydropower, and other Corps missions and functions.

Portland, Oregon has big city excitement and small town charm. Portland, known as "the City of Roses", and is one of the favorite destinations on the West coast. Portland is located at the confluence of the Willamette River and the Columbia River. This setting is magnificent; it combines sparkling waterways with lush greenery rarely found in urban areas. Portland is also just a short distance from the Pacific Ocean with its magnificent beaches and ocean scenery, and is in close proximity to the Cascade Mountains. Other nearby attractions are the spectacular Columbia River Gorge, windsurfing at Hood River and year-round skiing at Mt. Hood, many small local valley wineries and breweries, and excellent trout and salmon fishing in the many rivers and lakes nearby. Portland and surrounding communities have excellent public schools and the area has several universities including Portland State University, Lewis and Clark, Reed College, University of Portland, George Fox, and several community colleges. A splendid location, relaxed respectability, and an urban lifestyle that is unsurpassed for its livability make Portland a great place to live.

If you are interested in this position please provide your Resumix information to the Western

Civilian Personnel Operations Center (WCPOC) at Fort Huachuca, Arizona (<http://www.wpoc.army.mil>). For additional information on this vacancy please call Martin Hudson at 503.808.4703 or email at: Martin.L.Hudson@usace.army.mil

Balancing Economy and Environment Conference

Bruce Carlson – CECW-PG

The New Orleans conference on “Balancing Economy and Environment” is just around the corner: July 16-18, 2002. Approximately 250 people have indicated they will attend the 3-day conference. Registration has not closed, so it is still possible to attend.

An introduction to the conference was printed in a Special Edition of Planning Ahead (distributed May 20, 2002), and which can be read online on the Planning Home page.

Additional details on the conference sessions and logistics are listed below.

PLENARY SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- Keynote speaker Major General Robert Griffin presenting Leadership perspectives on Balancing Economy and the Environment, plus other current Corps initiatives
- Dr. G. Edward Dickey (Former ASA-CW), Dr. Benjamin Tuggle (USFWS), and Dr. Stephen Parker (NAS) presenting broad perspectives on the Corps role in Balancing Economy and Environment
- Case study presentations of programs balancing economy and environment
- A public involvement demonstration: Large Group Response technique
- Dr. Jim Johnson discussing the Planning Capabilities Initiatives
- An Ecosystem Restoration Partnership panel
- A Project Review Lessons Learned panel
- Conference Wrap-up and Future Directions by Dr. Jim Johnson

CONCURRENT SESSIONS WILL BE PRESENTED IN EIGHT TRACKS:

- Environmental Sustainability – NED/NER formulation
- Quantifying and Qualifying Environmental Benefits
- NER Risk and Uncertainty, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management
- Ecosystem Restoration Planning, Engineering and Construction Issues
- Ecosystem Restoration Research Areas: Coastal, Stream, Wetland, Urban, Sedimentation and Regional Sediment Management, and Research Programs
- Navigation Economics: Coastal and Inland
- Flood Damage Reduction Economics; and Other Evaluation Issues

PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE:

- Be sure you have your hotel reservations secured. Rooms are still available (\$89 per night) at the Courtyard Marriot two blocks from the conference: 124 St. Charles Avenue – (504)-581-9005.
- Include the \$50 registration fee on your travel orders for reimbursement.

- Travel days are Monday and Friday - you should attend all three days of the conference, July 16-18, 2002.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL:

- **FROM THE NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT:** Shuttle service to downtown hotels (\$10 each way) is conveniently available. Shuttle reservations recommended: <http://www.airportshuttleneworleans.com/>
- **DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** <http://www.marriott.com/epp/map.asp?MarshaCode=MSYLA>

REGISTER EARLY UPON ARRIVAL

- Sign-in EARLY! Registration will begin on MONDAY from 3-7 p.m.; Tuesday morning from 7:00 to 7:50. Please plan ahead to avoid a last-minute backlog.
- The Registration Desk will be located on the Second Floor of the Hotel
- Registration fee: \$50 - please pay in cash with exact change. Receipts will be issued.

ENJOY THE CONFERENCE

- Agendas, name-tags, local maps, tax exemption forms (if applicable) and other information will be distributed to each participant at registration.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

- Emergency messages to conference attendees can be left at the hotel main desk: 1-504-581-1000. Messages will be brought to the registration desk.

ELECTRONIC PROCEEDINGS TO BE PUBLISHED ON THE INTERNET

For those who cannot attend the conference, all sessions will be documented on a conference website as an electronic proceedings. Watch future issues of Planning Ahead for more information.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Any additional questions regarding the conference should be directed to Bruce Carlson (202-761-4230) or Mark Colosimo (202-761-4250). [📖](#)

Planning Fellowship Program Progresses

Teresa A Kincaid, MVR, and Kayla A Eckert, SPL

In August 2002 the Planning Fellowship Program curriculum development team will make its recommendations to Jim Johnson and the MSC Planning Chiefs. The recommendations, if accepted, will implement further elements of the planners professional development program, whose objective is to revitalize Corps planning capabilities. The recommended actions will reinforce the Corps commitment to grow as a learning organization, particularly in the area of technical excellence. (The Planning Fellowship Program is also known as the Expert Planner Program.)

Efforts to develop and maintain qualified and experienced planners have varied over the decades. In recent history, perhaps the most well known program was the Water Resources Planning Associates Program; though this program served the Corps of Engineers as a whole, it was situated at and administered by the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors at Ft Belvoir, VA. The program was initiated in 1968 and ended in 1995 due to various challenges, both funding and organizational.

Corps leaderships' commitment to maintaining planning capability is evidenced by its intent to reinstitute a first-quality training curriculum. LTG Robert Flowers' testimony at the Senate Environment and Public Works hearings in June emphasized that the Corps needs to strengthen its planning and technical capabilities to ensure that it makes quality recommendations and follows through with quality products. Furthermore, Dr. Jim Johnson, Chief of Planning and Policy, expresses his support in saying, "A program to develop planners who can manage complex planning studies and projects and who will provide water resource leadership in the future is vital to serving the Nation through Corps missions."

A team of experienced planners from throughout the Corps has been developing a curriculum which builds on the strengths of the former Planning Associates program. The new program proposes training which will be offered in six 2-3 week sessions, and which will allow participants to return to their districts for about three weeks between training sessions. The basic curriculum, still under design, proposes a team building/leadership session hosted by OPM, followed by some 'Washington' experience with HQ, ASA(CW), OMB, and Committee hearings, and then one week each of training in the Corps main mission areas. Also included will be taking the Instructional Methods class and teaching one of the Planning Core Curriculum classes the following year. During this eight-month period each person will have the opportunity to participate in a policy review, such as an ongoing feasibility report or an Alternative Formulation Briefing. Each year-class will also have a special assignment related to a national Corps planning challenge or opportunity.

The program's training will be aimed also at developing decision making capabilities and managerial and communication skills. Instruction will be conducted by staff members at HQUSACE, major subordinate commands, and laboratories, and will be supplemented by lectures from governmental agencies and private consulting firms. There will be lectures, workshops, short courses, case studies and field trips. The draft curriculum will be sent to the MSC Planning Chiefs in early August for decision making at the Planning Chiefs meeting in mid-month. Each MSC will be asked to volunteer to develop and host a week-long session focused on a Civil Works Mission area.

The Planning Fellowship Program aims to extend our water resource planners' and managers' capabilities, to extend professionalism already grounded in specific disciplines with new cognizances and new competences -- in the environmental arena, in economic develop areas, in the social field, all as these

relate to Corps project development. And, of course, equally needed is working well with others -- with citizens, with Corps team members, with agency colleagues, and with local officials.

The Headquarters point-of-contact for the program is Russ Rangos. Russ.Rangos@usace.army.mil 

Jacksonville and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution

Interim Operational Plan (IOP) For The Protection Of The Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow

Cheryl Ulrich, Tambour Eller, and Kim Taplin -- CESAJ

The Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project is a large, complex water management system authorized in 1948. The project consists of canals, levees, water conservation areas, pump stations, and other water control structures throughout Central and Southern Florida. Multi-purpose in nature, it provides flood protection, water supply for municipalities, industries and farms, prevention of salt-water intrusion, water for Everglades National Park (ENP) and protection of fish and wildlife resources.

For 50 years the project performed its intended functions well. However, the project also had unintended adverse effects on the unique natural environments of the Everglades and the Florida Bay ecosystems. In 1984 Congress authorized system operations modifications known as the Experimental Program of Modified Water Deliveries to ENP. The program consisted of a series of iterative tests to evaluate water delivery modifications to restore more natural water conditions in the Park. In February 1999, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) found that the operation of Test 7 Phase 1 of the Experimental Program would lead to probable jeopardy of the endangered Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow. Survival of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow is believed to depend upon maintaining a suitable water regime in its nesting habitat, which is limited to ENP. In January 2000, the Experimental Program was terminated because of the impacts to the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow.

The Corps, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), ENP and the USFWS have been working together to develop an Interim Operational Plan (IOP) for the C&SF project features located in south Florida. The Interim Operation Plan is designed to meet the USFWS's Reasonable and Prudent Alternative recommendation that hydrologic conditions be maintained in the sparrow's breeding habitat within ENP. The IOP includes operation of key features of C&SF Project modifications contained in the Experimental Program, and operation of features of another project, called C-111, parts of which are currently under construction. The objective is to help meet the USFWS requirements while maintaining the other C&SF Project purposes, flood control and so on.

Due to the number of issues still unresolved after public coordination of the Draft IOP EIS, the Corps was directed by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to work with various agencies to formulate a consensus plan which would meet the USFWS requirements while satisfying other authorized C&SF Project purposes. At CEQ's suggestion the Corps engaged the services of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to facilitate the development of an improved plan to address the USFWS' concerns. A number of facilitated meetings were held to resolve issues regarding

the IOP. As a result of this process, an additional alternative was developed for review under the NEPA process and a supplemental Draft IOP EIS was issued in Oct 01. The Final IOP EIS was issued in May 2002. The public comment period has closed and a Record of Decision is expected shortly. [📖](#)

Everglades Restoration Program Gets Organizational Support

Josephine Axt – CENAD

In response to a joint effort by the Chiefs of Planning and Policy at headquarters and Major Subordinate Commands to provide support to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP), the North Atlantic Division (NAD) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was pleased to assist the South Atlantic Division, Jacksonville District (SAJ), by participating in their Internal Quality Review (IQR) process for the CERP. In light of the enormous scale and technical complexity of the CERP, the HQ/MSD task force had recommended the creation of the IQR process as a supplement to the standard independent technical review process, in order to ensure the highest possible quality and integrity for the CERP program. As requested by SAJ's IQR memorandum, NAD focused its review of the draft Indian River Lagoon South feasibility report – the first component of CERP to reach the feasibility level – on several key points: 1) was a clear, cohesive story presented, 2) did the plan formulation process logically lead to the recommended conclusions, 3) were all decision drivers/assumptions technically supportable, 4) were all critical policy issues addressed, and 5) was the overall report of high quality? [📖](#)

Instructions for Contributors to Planning Ahead

This newsletter is designed to improve the communication among all the planners and those we work with throughout the Corps. We hope that future editions will have mostly information and perspective from those of you on the front lines in the districts. We hope that these notes become a forum for you to share your experiences to help all of us learn from each other. We can't afford to reinvent the wheel in each office. We welcome your thoughts, questions, success stories, and bitter lessons so that we can share them on these pages. The articles should be short (2-3 paragraphs) except in some cases where you just have to say more.

- Use MS WORD, if at all possible
- Use "normal" style
- Use Times New Roman font, 11 point
- All text should be left justified with start of each paragraph indented by one tab stop.
- Each article should have short title with only initial letter of each word capitalized
- Following each title should be author's name and organization
- Last line should be contact information – phone number or e-mail address [📖](#)

Subscribing to Planning Ahead

To subscribe or to our distribution list, send an e-mail message to majordomo@usace.army.mil with no subject line and only a single line of text in the message body.

That single line of text should be: "subscribe ls-planningahead"

To obtain a 'help' file, send only the word 'help' in the text of the message (nothing in the subject line) and address it to majordomo@usace.army.mil .

The web site for additional information is: <https://eml01.usace.army.mil/listserv.htm> 

Submissions Deadline

The deadline for material for the next issue is 19 JULY 2002.

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We are pleased that we have doubled the staff of *Planning Ahead* with Brad Fowler coming on board as editor, writer and chief bottle washer. Harry Kitch will continue to serve as publisher. Please continue to send in all those good articles and information to Brad. TEL 202-761-4231, FAX 202-761-1972, or email kirby.b.fowler@usace.army.mil. Harry Kitch can be reached at TEL 202-761-4574 or FAX 202-761-1972 or e-mail Harry.E.Kitch@usace.army.mil. 